

I shall have something further to say in regard to this reading—one of the most shameful and illegal ever perpetrated at the proper time; for the present I will simply state that about two ran alongside of the Fall River steambot on board which I was conveyed, while one of the persons above named landed and carried my papers away with him, and the other produced an order signed Wm. H. Seward, instructor Marshal Murray to convey me to Fort Warren.

Stick in body and mind, worn out with the indignities of what I had suffered, defenceless, and deeply impressed by the conviction that the people were too much under the control of "terror" to dare even to aid me in my efforts, I received myself of what the law and the Constitution gave a perfect right to do—I suffered myself to be conveyed through three separate Judicial Districts, upon no higher authority than Wm. H. Seward's individual order, to Fort Warren.

I blush when I think of my cowardice. I reproach myself for the shame, that I should have proved myself so false to Constitution, as to have permitted these armed myrmidons Murray thus to violate his sacred obligations through treatment of me. Better by far to have put the question to test, and have awakened the people of this country to sense of their peril and impending degradation, by falling beneath the murderous bullets of these creatures of tyranny the vindication of my liberty and manhood!

I reached Fort Warren on Friday, Dec. 20, and was detained there just one week. On the 27th, by an order signed Seward, Assistant Secretary of State, I was transferred to custody of U. S. Marshal Hayes, and by him conveyed to City of Boston, and committed to this jail upon an indictment obtained against me whilst I was at Fort Warren, charging me with being the owner of the bark Margaret Scott, having fitted her out as a slave.

Thus have I given a faithful and conscientiously true statement of the leading points connected with my present imprisonment, and the persecutions from which I have suffered since my entering into details. Leaving them to the future consideration of the great masses of public intelligence.

Since my confinement in this jail, the same persistent course of newspaper abuse has been continued, and fresh charges have been brought connecting my name with matters in which I have never had any interest or knowledge. The accusations seem to all be narrowed down, at the present moment, to the alleged connection with three vessels—the barks "Augusta" and "Margaret Scott," and the schooner "Wells"; and these Mr. Marshall Murray has rung every variety of changes and has sought, if there was anything wrong about either of them, to fix it entirely upon me, regardless of every other consideration. He has endeavored by the most unscrupulous means, to blacken my name, and PREJUDICE MY CASE; and has succeeded in so far that I find it impossible to procure in this city for even the moderate sum of four thousand dollars! One of the last things he charges me as being connected with, seems to be the successful voyage of a slave, who landed 66 negroes in Cuba last August—a cargo would presume somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000, and yet, with such wonderful prosperity imparted to me, I am supposed to have raised four thousand dollars! Can you see how sick and suffering in prison from an over-labor? Is it my fault if myself and family in get it, and because I have not a penny in the world of assets, my responsibility to become swayed, such an amount. I think further comment is entirely unnecessary.

I ask the public what secret ties can exist between thimself Murray and the Honorable Mr. Secretary Seward? It appears to be in the other's power some way or the other, is apparent. What would a high-minded, honorable incumbent of the State Department have done after receiving such letters as I have written him, taking the two heroic copies as samples? Would he not have said "there are no secrets to this question let us examine them both, so that no injustice may be done to our citizens?" Could he have taken offense if his records were clear of the charges which I conditionally made? Clear not; and unless guilty of them all, he would have lost the right in replying the injury he had done.

Furthermore, the two foregoing letters are equivalent charges of malfeasance in office against Mr. Marshall Murray; why did not the Secretary of State send them into them?

A gentleman to whom I read these letters before they came to them, and whom Seward well said, "If I sent them (Seward) would make me read these letters before they came to them, and to crush me as far as sight that the public could never hear my voice. Mr. Seward has the presence of being outside of a prison wall—I have the absence of years and in heart."

I am aware that friends and counsel may think it unwarrantable and injudicious thus to publish to the world circumstances which might prove of value in my legal defense; but with such considerations have now entirely lost their weight.

"Truth is mighty and will prevail!" and I do not care whether I should not utter it at one time as well as another especially when its utterance may have the effect of saving those who are very dear to me from the further tortures which my name has paved in the public prints in the names which I have been for the past few months.

I reiterate in the most solemn manner the statements contained in the foregoing letters to Mr. Seward is the effect of I have never been engaged in the slave trade, but I cannot but bear the assertion that "if I had been, the offense against morality, and justice, and all its possible consequences, would have been paid shadow of proportion to the enormity of the crime perpetrated by William H. Seward and Marshall Murray in this, through their treatment of me, trampling under foot that Constitution which has hitherto been regarded by the people of this country as the chief palladium of the liberties.

The world very seldom judges as impartially until we have passed from its busy stage, therefore I ought not to expect justice just or charitable verdict from the present. Yet nevertheless, I reflect that in my judgments of a kindred—many of my enemies—I have always studiously sought to be charity upmost in the balance, it seems to me as though I had some right to expect at least a little in return. I do however, hope or ask for this; I only ask for justice. I always felt the force of the divine writer's injunction,

"—To thyself be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not turn thee from my face."

From the foregoing fragmentary statements, with such help as the public may already be familiar with, it will not be difficult for us impartial men to arrive at the TRUTH, and from these facts, together with that "evidence of things unseen" which is presented, I have faith to believe that the world will concur to think more justly of me than it has hitherto done. I hope, until I have legally established "mise Amable innocence," that the press will do me the justice to lay all further personal attacks against me from their columns, and that the people, if they see any more wonderful exploits of Mr. Marshall Murray or his indefatigable deputy, M. Delectus Smith, which in any way refer to me, will understand their source and appreciate their motives.

I have earnestly sought to give no exaggerated coloring any of the allegations or statements which I have herein made; I have sought to avoid bitterness and injustice in speaking of those who have most cruelly and shamefully wronged me. I have been compelled to speak facts clearly; and my sole opinion was necessary to establish a fact, that have I also expressed. Further than this I have no personal feeling up the subject. My duty in the future is clear, and I shall pursue it without fear or favor. I have conclusively settled the truth, and the reader must judge whether Mr. Seward, Murray, or any other person or persons, act with any intention of ill-endeavoring to keep me out of the way, or to discredit or to fall upon evil times. We seem to be fighting for power and territory, instead of principle. Our liberties are more in danger than anything else. Territory we fight for; if once lost, principles never.

Looking forth from "my prison" with my mind sustained by the excitements surrounding those who are in the whirlpool of this revolution, I have seen the perils which perhaps many do not see. I have not been so engrossed in my own wrongs as to be insensitive to those of a whole people, and in contemplating the dangers of my own situation, I do not shut my eyes to those which beset the future of the country.

I do not think that any circumstance can again induce me to address the public upon my own individual grievances wrongs—with God's good help I shall surmount all the difficulties which now seem "to compass me about," but, about any event in the future seem to call me in any way, with power or sword, to battle for that Constitution which is now so nearly safeguarded of our liberties, I trust that the opportunity will not be wanting for us to devote to a devotion to that instrument which it would have been better for men now here in power to have emulated. APPLETON OAKSMITH